

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SHUM PFOR

SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR CONGRESS

REF: STATE 22819

I. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION, PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO
GOVERNMENT PER REFTEL.

THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, FORMERLY THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF
AFARS AND ISSAS, HAS BEEN INDEPENDENT SINCE JUNE 1977.

I. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE; CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT
OR PUNISHMENT; ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT; DENIAL OF
FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL; AND INVASION OF THE HOME.

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THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO INFORMATION WHICH LEADS US TO
BELIEVE THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON HAS NOT BEEN
RESPECTED DURING DJIBOUTI'S SEVEN MONTHS OF INDEPENDENCE.

2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF
SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCA-
TION.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC DJIBOUTI IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED FOR THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

WITHIN ITS VERY LIMITED RESOURCES IT IS ATTEMPTING TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE. IT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED, HOWEVER, BY THE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION CAUSED BY THE OGADEN CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE CUTTING OF THE RAILWAY FROM DJIBOUTI TO ADDIS ABABA, DJIBOUTI'S MAIN ECONOMIC RESOURCE, AND IN A LARGE INFLUX OF REFUGEES.

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION INDICATING THAT CORRUPTION EXISTS TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE IN DJIBOUTI.

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION, AND ASSEMBLY; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL, AND EMIGRATION; AND FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

DJIBOUTI DOES NOT YET HAVE ITS OWN CONSTITUTION, BUT IS PROCEEDING ON AN AD HOC BASIS WITH THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT INHERITED FROM THE FRENCH. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS HAS BEEN GREATLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENHANCED BY INDEPENDENCE. WHILE VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS IN DJIBOUTI ADOPTED TECHNIQUES OF INTIMIDATION DURING THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION THAT SUCH TECHNIQUES NOW ARE EMPLOYED TO RESTRICT THE CIVIL OR POLITICAL LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE.

4. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI IS COMMITTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESERVATION OF A LIBERAL AND ECONOMICALLY PROGRESSIVE STATE AND IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THESE DIRECTIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALLEGED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE. VANCE

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